

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 20, 2005 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

1. Call to Order

The East Greenwich School Committee met on Tuesday, December 20, 2005 in the East Greenwich High School Auditorium. The meeting was called to order by Chair Vincent Bradley at 7:00 p.m. Other members present were: Vice-Chair Merrill Friedemann, Paul Martin, Steve Gregson, Dr. Al Ross, William Day, and Sue Cienki, as well as Superintendent Charles Meyers, Director of Administration Maryanne Crawford, and Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara

2. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. State of District

a. Superintendent's Update

The Superintendent stated that Administrative and School Committee goals were set at the December 10th Retreat. He noted that he received a memo from the Department of Education concerning the new regulations for grade one entrance, and the School Committee will not deviate from the State Law on the age requirement.

b. Staff Updates

c. Reports

4. Public Comments for items not on the Agenda

Eliza Stopa and Megan Nugent, Student Council Liaisons, reported

that students donated \$1500 to a high school in Alabama. They mentioned that everyone is preparing for the SALT visit, and that Air Band went well and Advisories are going well.

5. Recognitions

5.1 Fall Sports

Mr. Vincent Varrecchione, Athletic Director, recognized the Girls Tennis Team for their remarkable season, winning thirty consecutive matches. Coach Robert Petrucci and the girls were present to be recognized and congratulated by the School Committee. They are: Jess Miller, Ainsley Bonham, Danielle LeFever, Monica Rosenberg, Kristen Van Vleck, Ashley Platt, Meredith Flynn, Lyndsay Osbourne, Jill Lambiase, Melanie Rosenberg, Amanda Eller, and Erin Cannata.

5.2 The following Cole Middle School students were recognized for being selected for All State Chorus; Jade Genga, Sarah Bolton, Jordan Fowler, and Helena Johnston

6. Approval of Minutes

6.1 Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann to approve the following minutes: August 30, September 20, November 1, November 15, November 22 Executive Sessions. The motion passed unanimously.

6.2 Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2005 School Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

7. New Business

7.1a. Appointments

7.1.1 Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson

to approve the

appointment of Janet Breidenbach, choral director for the East Greenwich Public Schools,

effective September 1, 2005. Mr. Meyers recognized Jan for her work this year in her new position as choral director for grades 3-12. He noted that she is building a comprehensive choral program. The motion passed unanimously.

128

8. First Reading of Character Education Policy

Mr. Meyers read the policy and in January the second reading and vote will take place.

9. Cole Lacrosse

Mrs. Mondillo and Mr. Carr spoke about a new Lacrosse program for Cole students and the spoke about the success of the program at the high school. They noted that the program is self funded by the West Bay Lacrosse Association. Mr. Carr stated that fundraising will be tried first, then parents may have to be responsible for the fee. Mr. Martin asked if School Committee will be responsible for the cost of the program in the future. The cost in the future could be \$3000 per team and may turn into a request for budgetary assistance. The cost of insurance was brought up and it was noted that each child is insured by U.S. Lacrosse. Mr. Carr and Mrs. Mondillo will work with Mr. Militello at Cole to see if field space if available. Mr. Meyers suggested that the School Committee sanction this as a club sport so it will fall under the umbrella policy of the school district. Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve a self

funded Lacrosse Club at Cole Middle School funded by the participants and West Bay Lacrosse, for the 2006 season. The motion was unanimous. Dr. Ross stated that if this sport becomes a part of the school program, there may be budget problems ahead, and the School Committee cannot promise future funding.

10. Approval of High School Program of Studies

Mr. Levine, High School Principal, and his department heads, were present to speak about the new high school courses. This was the first discussion, and the recommendation for approval will be on the January agenda. Mr. Levine mentioned that all new courses may not impact the budget. Mrs. Chavez, Mr. McPartlin, Mr. DeCubellis, Mr. Rath, Mrs. Dulac, and Mrs. Davis gave explanations of their new courses. It was noted that many of the new courses will replace other courses. A discussion was held on the senior project required for graduation.

11. Home School Plan for Jonathan Morrissey, Grade 8

Mrs. Cienki made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the home school plan for Jonathan Morrissey, grade 8. Dr. Ross had a question about accepting a book that is being used when that book is not used in the classroom. Mrs. Cienki stated that it is a parental right for a parent to use a book that is part of their plan. On the vote, Mr. Bradley, Mrs. Friedemann, Mr. Martin, Mr. Gregson, Mrs. Cienki and Mr. Day voted yes, and Dr. Ross abstained. He noted that he abstained because he is not in favor of the plan that the parent requested.

12. Out-of-State Field Trips

12.1 New York City on May 24, 2006 for Science Department and New York City on April 29 for International Club

Mrs. Friedemann made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ross to approve the trips to New York City on May 24, 2006 and April 29 with the chaperone ratio of 6 to 1. The motion passed with Mr. Gregson abstaining. He asked for a copy of chaperone responsibilities.

12.2 International Trips for 2007: France in April; Spain in June

Insurance coverage for these trips is provided by the companies sponsoring the trips. Mrs. Crawford has asked the school department's insurance company to okay the coverage provided by the companies, and have them put it in writing. Mrs. Friedemann asked to have the school department named as an additional insured on their policy. Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann to table the Spain and France trips. The motion passed

129

unanimously. There was a question about drinking in host families homes during the France trip. Host families should be told that our students cannot be served alcohol.

13. School Committee Concerns

14. Public Comments for Items on the Agenda

15. Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ross to adjourn and go into Executive Session at 10:00 p.m. under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) Connecticut State Department of Education-Statement of Professional Experience on Michael Jolin, Gym Floor Litigation Update, Update on Custodian's Contract. The

Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to do so.

In Open Session at 10:30 p.m., Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to seal the minutes of the December 20, 2005 Executive Session and to remove from the agenda Dr. Jolin's request to have the School Committee Chair, Vincent Bradley, fill out and sign a Statement of Professional Experience for the Connecticut State Department of Education. Dr. Ross, Mr. Day, Mr. Gregson, Mrs. Friedemann and Mr. Martin voted yes, and Mr. Bradley and Mrs. Cienki voted no. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani
Secretary